

# The Pearsall Post Newsletter

Term 1 Issue # 2

Thursday 25th February 2021

Student Absence Line:  
**0437 482 159**

## Important Dates to Remember

- **EARLY CLOSING EVERY WEDNESDAY@ 2:30PM**
- **Public Holiday: Monday 1st March**
- **Running Club Tuesday @ 8am**  
*Meet Mr G & Mr B on the oval*
- **UNIFORM SHOP**  
Wednesday 3rd March 2.30—3pm
- **Next Assembly: Thursday 11th March,**  
Yr 1, Rm 7, Mrs V

### In-Term Swimming

In-Term Swimming was conducted as a 5 day session over Week 3. The students are to be congratulated on their conduct over the week. It was a very busy schedule with some disruptions but we were able to successfully complete the lessons required for assessment. Certificates will be provided across Week 4.



The \$23 credit will be used to pay for EDU-Dance that will take place in Term 2 and Term 4.

### School Gates - Open and Close times

Gates will be open in the mornings from 8.25am to 8.40am. Students arriving after 8.40am will need to enter via the school office.

Students in Years 1 to 6 are now being asked to make their way to classes from any of the gates, without parents.

Students in PrePrimary will be able to have parents escort them to classes until the 12th March.

Kindergarten students may be accompanied until the end of term.

At the end of the school day, gates will open at 2.40pm and 2.10pm on Wednesdays.



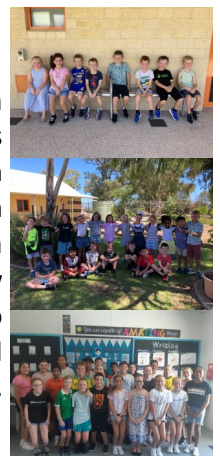
### After School

A reminder that parents should move off the school site as quickly as possible to avoid congestion and to adhere to the ongoing Government requests of social distancing. **Students are not permitted to play around the school grounds or on play equipment after school.**

### Free Dress Day—Lord Mayor's Bush Fire Appeal

The school participated in a free dress day, on Wednesday 24th February to raise funds for the victims of the Wooroloo and Hills Bushfires. While we can't replace what people have lost, we can help ease the financial burden. Many of us are connected with people who were affected by these bushfires. Our school Chaplain Lisa was called upon to work in the evacuation centres and saw firsthand, the distress and challenges faced by many families who were evacuated, many having lost their homes. All monies raised will be distributed through the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund, Wooroloo and Hills Bushfire 2021 Appeal.

A big thank you to all families who supported this initiative!



### First Assembly for 2021



Our first assembly was hosted by Mr Gartrell's Year 3 class, Room 11. We also celebrated our new Year 6 Student leaders for 2021.



8.25am	Classrooms Open
8.40am	Siren for start of day
10.40am	Recess
11.05am	End of Recess
12.45pm	Lunch
1.25pm	End of Lunch
3.00pm	School Day Ends

**Please note:**

**2.30pm finish on**

**Wednesdays**

**Assemblies held**

**every 2nd**

**Thursday at**

**8.45am**

## ConnectNOW

Pearsall Primary School uses the ConnectNow app to communicate important information with parents and caregivers. If you are having trouble accessing Connect, please speak to the friendly staff in our office to assist you.



## Parent Information Sessions—Years 1 to 6

As a part of our communication to parents processes, Parent Information sessions will be held for parents of students in Years 1 to Year 6. These sessions will provide parents with general information about class routines, expectations, timetables and communication methods. Meetings will take place after school and will be staggered so that most parents with more than one child can attend each child's class. **We prefer that children do not attend this event if possible.** Please note that these meetings are designed for general information, not for discussion regarding individual students. If you would like to discuss your child's individual needs with the classroom teacher, please make an appointment.

## ON Entry Literacy and Numeracy Assessments

In Weeks 4 to 6 of this term, all PrePrimary and Year 2 students will undertake a state wide literacy and numeracy assessment in class with their teachers. If your child is doing this assessment you will receive a letter outlining the details of the assessment before Week 4.

## NAPLAN

NAPLAN Online testing will be conducted in Term 2 for students in Year 3 and Year 5. Families will be aware that the testing program was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19. It is expected that the program will go ahead with students completing assessments in Reading, Spelling, Writing, Punctuation and Grammar, and Mathematics. All assessments are conducted in an online digital environment with the exclusion of the Year Three writing assessment. Results will be provided to parents later in the year.



## Attendance Matters—every day at school counts

*Surely, it doesn't matter if your kids miss a day at school, right?*

Unfortunately, it does! Absence from school, even as early as Kindergarten and PrePrimary, can have a significant effect on the educational outcomes and life choices of the students. Absenteeism is an early indicator of 'academic risk' and can have major effect on performance. They miss out on important writing, reading and mathematics skills. Going to school is a child's 'job' and regular attendance builds good work habits, which help later in life. Parents need to encourage students that going to school is a priority. Even if its hard to get going in the morning, research shows that the first part of a school day is vital for a child to actively engage in the days learning and developing important life skills such as team work, problem solving and conflict resolution in addition to their school work.



Pearsall PS uses an SMS system to notify of student absences. If your child is absent please ensure that you notify the school by messaging **0437 482 159** with your child's name, classroom number, date and the reason for absence.

**Payments**

Please note that all payments to the school can be made by **EFTPOS** in the front office or **Direct Deposit**:

**Acc: Pearsall Primary School  
BSB: 066040**

**Acc: 19904146**  
Put your child's initial, surname and reason e.g, J.Smith swimming.

You can combine the amount if you have more than one child.

***Please note, Eftpos and Direct Deposit are for school related payment and not for P&C payments.***

**School Board**

On Monday 22nd February, a number of agenda items were discussed by our School Board. One proposal that the Board would like feedback on, is to close the school for two half days on Wednesday 28th July and Thursday 29th July for Parent-Teacher Interviews. This proposal was previously raised as necessary to provide greater time for parents to talk to teachers and to accommodate the cross over times when a parent has two or more students. If you have feedback regarding this suggestion, can you please email to our School Board chairman via this email address: pearsallpsboard@gmail.com

**Assembly News**

The next class run assembly will take place on Thursday, 11th March. This will be conducted by Mrs Van Der Heiden's and Mrs Marlow's Year 1, Room 7 class. Parents from the host class only are permitted to attend.



**Change of date—the Harmony run scheduled for Friday 19th March has now been changed until Term Two, not date has been set as yet.**

**Social Media Use**

This is a timely reminder to parents/carers not to share any images on social media that include any of our students, as not all parents have provided permission for their child's image to be published. Any sharing of a students' image or name without appropriate consent could lead to legal action.

**Valuable Items**

Can parents/carers please remind children not to bring items of value to school. This includes jewellery (other than sleepers or stud earrings), toys, electronic devices, and/or sports equipment. Valuable items if lost or stolen, are not covered by Education Department's insurance and therefore the school cannot accept responsibility for any loss. Adding to this, some items can present a safety risk. Any items of this nature found during the day will be placed with the teacher, to be collected at the end of the day.

**Family Law Issues in Schools**

The law presumes that parents have joint parental responsibility, irrespective of the child's place of residence. Consequently, each parent is entitled to:

- Contact the child, should he/she seek to do so while the child is attending school (via administration, as per visitors policy) to the extent it does not impact the normal operations of the school;
- Discuss the child's academic progress with the class teachers, or Deputy Principal/Principal;
- Attend school functions or attend as a volunteer; and have access to school based information about the child.

Any variation to this can only occur when the school is provided with a copy of a current Family Court Order, parenting plans registered with the Family Court. And/or restraining order. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that the school is provided with these documents and any subsequent variations to these. Please contact our school office if you need to discuss these matters or update the school of your situation.

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**HEALTHY MINDS, From the Pastoral Care Team...**

At Pearsall, teachers understand and value the practice of mindfulness with their students. This term we will be posting information on how you can practice with your children at home.

By teaching children meditation and mindfulness skills we help them increase their well-being and enable them to meet the stresses of the world with presence, self-compassion, and openness. In order to help children of all ages find their way into practicing mindfulness, it can be helpful to give them an easy definition they can relate to.

A Definition of Mindfulness Meditation for Children - Mindfulness meditation, at its simplest, is paying attention to what is happening in the present moment. It may be what you're feeling, hearing, or anything else you notice. There's no special place of calm you have to reach and it's not about clearing your mind, it's just an honest and kind look at what you're experiencing in this moment.

Why Teach Mindfulness to Children?

When we teach mindfulness to kids, we give them the tools they need to build confidence, cope with stress, and relate to uncomfortable or challenging moments. The earlier we do so in their young lives, the greater the opportunity to help them cultivate resilience and develop and refine their mindfulness practice as they mature.

Teaching mindfulness to kids can also help shape three critical skills developed in early childhood: paying attention and remembering information, shifting back and forth between tasks, and behaving appropriately with others. These abilities are known as executive functions and they are essential for more advanced tasks like planning, reasoning, problem-solving, and positive social relationships.

Studies show that the benefits of mindfulness for kids may include:

1. Increased focus, attention, self-control, classroom participation, compassion.
2. Improved academic performance, ability to resolve conflict, overall well-being.
3. Decreased levels of stress, depression, anxiety, disruptive behaviour.

**THE GREEN TEAM:****Clean Up Australia Day– Friday 5th March.**

Next Friday 5th March in Clean Up Australia Day here at Pearsall Primary. To reduce the amount of single use plastic/disposable gloves, we are asking students to bring in their own pair of gardening gloves to use on the day. The gloves don't have to be brand new and can be an old pair of adult gardening gloves from home. We would appreciate if you could supply your child with a pair of gardening gloves for next Friday to help make our school clean up a successful one.

**Wrapper Free Wednesday:**

A reminder that EVERY Wednesday is Wrapper Free Wednesday. We encourage students to bring a waste free lunch every Wednesday. Think beeswax wraps, reusable containers, reusable yogurt pouches, and wholesome foods such as oranges, avocados and mandarins that have their own compostable wrapping. Students will be asked to take their wrappers home in their lunch boxes on Wednesdays.

*As always we thank you for your constant support for The Green Team and our future environment.*

**The Green Team 2021****Important Upcoming Dates for Term 1:**

Labour Day Public Holiday	Monday, 1st March
Clean Up Australia Day	Friday, 5th March
Assembly—Yr 1, Room 7	Thursday, 11th March
HARMONY WEEK	Monday 15th—Friday 19th March
Assembly—Yr 2, Room 14	Thursday 25th March
Assembly—Yr 1/2, Room 8	Thursday 1st April
<b>LAST DAY OF TERM 1</b>	<b>THURSDAY 1ST April</b>
<i>Easter Long Weekend</i>	<i>Friday 2nd April—Monday 5th April</i>
<i>School Holidays</i>	<i>2nd April— 19th April</i>
First day of Term 2	Tuesday, 20th April
ANZAC Day event	Thursday 22nd April